

In any event, some of these pseudoeconomic forecasters say we need to increase taxes to stimulate the economy. Well, that makes no sense. In fact, we ought to do just the opposite. We need to make the tax cuts permanent because tax cuts historically prove they work. They work to stimulate the economy. They did so under Presidents Kennedy, Reagan, and Bush. Americans need to keep more of their own money, and the economy will prosper. And who benefits from tax cuts? Anybody that pays taxes benefits from tax cuts. Americans who don't pay taxes are not affected.

Cut the fraud and abuse in the Federal bureaucracies, cut wasteful spending, and cut taxes to bring a sunny forecast to our economy.

And that's just the way it is.

SOLAR TAX INCENTIVES: "MUST PASS" LEGISLATION IN 2008

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, in the week before we adjourned for the holidays, Congress, in a bipartisan effort, passed, and the President signed, the Energy Independence and Security Act. This bill, which is now law, represents a major stride forward towards a clean energy future. I applaud my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for moving this historic and very important legislation.

It was a good first step, but we are not there yet. The real meat of an effective energy package, which was not included in the legislation, must be the extension of critical tax incentives. These are essential for the solar industry to really take root and flourish. This is one of the reasons why I introduced H.R. 3807, the Renewable Energy Assistance Act, to improve and extend vital tax incentives for solar energy. These incentives will spur innovation, decrease our carbon emissions, and reduce our dependency on foreign energy.

In this time of economic uncertainty, it is important that we provide this critical stimulus so that we can move forward on these renewable energy efforts. We have to act this year, before the end of 2008. Doing so will get America back on track and working toward a better and brighter future.

JEANNETTE HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Coach Ray Reitz and the Jeannette Jayhawks football team, who are the Class AA football champions, beating every team they played this year by more than 20 points. Senior quarterback Terrell Pryor, who is also USA Today's Offensive Player of the Year, scored five of the seven touchdowns in

their 49-21 win. He is the first player in State history to eclipse both 4,000 yards rushing and 4,000 yards passing.

But Jeannette is champions in the classroom as well, with McKee Elementary being a Blue Ribbon school, and all their schools receiving the Keystone Achievement Recognition this year, and the school district getting the bronze medal. Great accomplishment for a small school district.

Congrats to the Jayhawks for excellence in the classroom and on the field.

SUPPORT HOPE VI

(Mr. CUELLAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3524, the HOPE VI Improvement Reauthorization Act of 2007. I commend Representative WATERS and the members of the Financial Services Committee for supporting a bill with such valuable enhancement and improvement to the HOPE VI grant program.

This legislation reauthorizes a program that represents one of our government's best efforts to provide quality housing for low-income families. Again, I am particularly pleased with one provision of this legislation that will help communities rebuild in the wake of severe natural disasters and emergencies.

For example, in my congressional district there is one particular county public housing unit in Starr County that has been destroyed by flood waters when it rose to dangerous levels. This was not the first time the Housing Authority of Starr County has had to manage severe flooding damage and subsequent resident displacement. In fact, since 1981, this public housing unit has experienced major unit-destroying flooding seven different times.

This legislation gives the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development the latitude to waive the public housing authority's fund-matching requirements in cases of extreme distress and emergency.

This is a good piece of legislation. I ask for support of this legislation.

KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korean American Day, which was held this past Sunday to honor the achievements, to honor the contributions of Korean Americans to our country. Back on January 13 of 1903, the first Korean immigrants came here to the United States; and since that time, Korean Americans have taken root and thrived in this country through their strong ties, their hard work, their commitment to their rich heritage and values, education, and entrepreneurship.

But, Madam Speaker, we have an ally and friend in South Korea, and they

have been a friend for the decades. Over this time, South Korea has emerged as a major economic power, our seventh largest trading partner. It is vital that Congress take up and pass the Korean-U.S. trade agreement.

Let me tell you why: this particular agreement, the U.S. International Trade Commission, just released its report. They say this agreement can benefit the economy of the United States of America to the tune of over \$10 billion, between \$10 billion and \$11.9 billion.

We stand to gain if this passes. It's vital that we continue to open up new markets for our goods and services. This agreement accomplishes that.

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE MONTEIRO DACOSTA

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathies to a wonderful Rhode Island family who has lost a devoted loved one named Jacqueline Monteiro Dacosta, and to briefly share with you the impact that she has had on so many lives here in Rhode Island.

She worked in my office for 11 years, and during that time she touched countless lives who sought her advice and help on a multitude of issues. At the end of it, she always made them feel at ease. She worked in my office and filed many claims and issues; but in the midst of all of it, she made people feel good about themselves, and always did her work. The number of letters I have for her are extensive, and the testament of her good works were in the wake that she had, where thousands of people showed up to pay tribute to her life and celebrate it. Next month, I will take a trip with her family to the islands of Cape Verde, her ancestral homeland, where we will plant a tree in her memory.

I just want to extend my condolences to her family: Jackie's parents, Jose and Adelisa Monteiro; her children, Stephanie and Justin; her siblings, Filomena, Osvaldo, and Jose, Jr., in continuing to honor Jackie's memory and her joyous spirit. We will miss you, Jackie, we love you, and we will never forget you.

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY MEDIA FAIRNESS POLL

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, a Sacred Heart University poll released this month found that less than 20 percent of those surveyed believed news media reporting. Almost nine out of 10 Americans believe that the news media attempt to influence public opinion, and about the same number